

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication method in a communication system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus perform communication with each other over a network, comprising steps of:

providing, on said network, a third information processing apparatus for pooling a plurality of for-rent-out virtual addresses to be temporarily used by said first information processing apparatus;

requesting, by said first information processing apparatus, said third information processing apparatus to rent out a virtual address when said first information processing apparatus performs said communication with said second information processing apparatus;

renting out, by said third information processing apparatus, said virtual address on the basis of said request; and

sending out, by said first information processing apparatus, a communication packet whose transmission-source address is set up by said virtual address and whose transmission-destination address is set up by an address of said second information processing apparatus.

2. A third information processing apparatus provided on a network and performing rent-out of an

address, wherein said third information processing apparatus holds a correspondence table having a correspondence relationship between an inherent address and said rent-out address, and

said inherent address is allocated to a first information processing apparatus which is a rent-out destination of said address, said rent-out address being rented out to said first information processing apparatus by said third information processing apparatus.

3. A third information processing apparatus provided on a network and performing rent-out of an address, wherein said third information processing apparatus holds a correspondence table having a correspondence relationship among an inherent address, said rent-out address, and an address of a second information processing apparatus, and

said inherent address is allocated to a first information processing apparatus which is a rent-out destination of said address, said rent-out address being rented out to said first information processing apparatus by said third information processing apparatus, said second information processing apparatus being a partner information processing apparatus with which said first information processing apparatus performs communication using said rent-out address.

4. The third information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein, in response to an

inquiry from said second information processing apparatus, said third information processing apparatus notifies said second information processing apparatus of said inherent address allocated to said first information processing apparatus.

5.           The third information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein permission to issue said notification is given only in a case of a combination of said address of said second information processing apparatus and said inherent address allocated to said first information processing apparatus, said address of said second information processing apparatus and said inherent address having a correspondence relationship in said correspondence table, and no permission is given to said notification in a case of a combination that does not exist in said correspondence table.

6.           A second information processing apparatus provided on a network and performing communication with a first information processing apparatus, wherein said second information processing apparatus makes an inquiry about an inherent address of said first information processing apparatus to a third information processing apparatus that holds a correspondence table, and

              said correspondence table has a correspondence relationship among said inherent address of said first information processing apparatus, a rent-out address rented out to said first information

processing apparatus, and an address of said second information processing apparatus.

7.           A first information processing apparatus provided on a network, wherein, when said first information processing apparatus performs communication with a second information processing apparatus over said network, said first information processing apparatus requests a third information processing apparatus to rent out an address to be temporarily used by said first information processing apparatus,

              said first information processing apparatus then sends out a communication packet whose transmission-source address is set up by said address thus rented, and whose transmission-destination address is set up by an address of said second information processing apparatus.